

THE PACIFIC
Commercial Advertiser.SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13.
Foreign News Items.

The Paris *Pigeon* says Bret Harte is received in the highest English society with distinction.

Accounts have been received from St. Petersburg of the reappearance of the plague, which is not widespread, but it is sufficiently serious to demand preventive measures.

Great improvement has suddenly been manifested in the mental condition of Carlotta, widow of Emperor Maximilian of Mexico, and a complete restoration of her sanity is now considered possible.

If the truth could be known it would be found that half the cases of sickness are brought on by the morbid and excited imagination in the victim. Intense fear of a disease will produce it.

The Grand Jury of San Francisco has brought in a true bill against Charles De Young for attempt to murder, and in its report severely condemns the use of violent, indecent and defamatory language in political campaigns.

In Paris, France, the animal and vegetable refuse from markets and refuse of all kinds has been calcined, and forms what is known as "Paris charcoal." A furnace for the purpose has been designed by an Eastern inventor at Stamford, Conn., for utilizing all these waste products.

The Canadian Government has received a petition from British Columbians praying that a clause be inserted in government contracts for the construction of the railway in British Columbia prohibiting the employment of Chinese labor.

Robert P. Crockett, the only surviving son of Davy Crockett, has a farm near Granbury, Texas, and is the keeper of the bridge across the Brazos river at that place. Ashley Crockett, one of Robert Crockett's sons, is one of the two editors and proprietors of a flourishing newspaper of that region.

A Valparaiso dispatch, dated October 12th, received by way of Lisbon, says: The captured Peruvian ironclad *Huascar* has been towed here, and will be refitted and manned by a Chilean crew. The Chilean Government has ordered funeral honors to the late Rear-Admiral Grau, who commanded the *Huascar*.

Glaustone is an active, lithe, muscular man, rather tall and of well-proportioned frame. His face and figure have that clear-cut contour which generally indicates several generations of intellectual activity and personal leadership.

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Cetewayo, the Zulu King, is rather a handsome man. He has a singularly dignified and stately bearing, a tall, slender figure, good features, a fine, gleaming, beautiful teeth, a head splendidly set upon his shoulders and a velvet skin. His attire is likewise impressive—his tunic, cloth of the richest red and green pattern. His capidity does not seem to affect his spirits. He is perfectly cheerful, has a good appetite, chafes pleasantly with his wardrobe and enjoys his daily walk.

There is not a nation in Europe of the Caucasian race that has one subject in a thousand of any other race. They are so jealous of their own citizenship that with most of them they will not admit full citizenship foreigners, even of their own race. But we have degenerated so in patriotism and public virtue that from mercenary motives and party purposes we are inviting the heathen races from all lands to come and possess our country, and conferring the rights of citizenship on those who cannot even read the English language, and know no more about the Constitution by which our complicated system of State and Federal Government was organized, than educated horses—4m. paper.

Coney Island reveals in electric lights. The big pier has twenty-five of them. Each hotel has a number and the tall tower has a few. To the ocean traveler these present a brilliant sight at night. Yet there are many ocean travelers who never heard of electric light, and who are not accustomed to seeing these beacons in New York harbor. A ship coming from Australia cast anchor in the night, the Captain being so bewildered by what he thought were half a dozen light-houses gone crazy that he did not know where to go. A pilot boarded an Italian vessel one night and found the Captain and crew on their knees praying in terror for protection from what they supposed to be demons dancing along a blitherous unfrequented shore. Coney Island should hide her lights under a bushel.

An Expert Forger.

A detective with whom a reporter of the New York Times recently went fishing at Norwich, Ct., and who did not know the profession of his companion, unburdened himself of some interesting reminiscences concerning criminals, of which Massachusetts furnished the following:

"One of the most expert forgers that ever appeared in this country was caught in Massachusetts, lately convicted, and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. He had not been in prison more than three months when, to the astonishment of the jailer, a pardon came for him, in due form, signed by the Governor, and property was assigned. There was nothing to be done but liberate the prisoner, and he walked out. But he had not been gone long before the jailer discovered that the prisoner had managed, through his friends, to get a blank pardon from the Governor's office, had filled it out himself, and cleverly forged the signature, and had then passed it to his friends again, to be mailed to the jailer in proper shape. The clever forger had not got far enough away to escape, as he was arrested and sent back to prison. He employed a young New York lawyer, whose name is familiar through the fame of his father, and told him the story. 'They have no right to lock you up again,' said the lawyer, 'having once liberated you, without legally proving that the pardon is a forgery. I can get you out, but it will cost you \$1500.' 'Go ahead,' said the forger. The lawyer went ahead, gained the case, and liberated the prisoner. 'I am going out West immediately,' said the forger, as soon as he was free. 'My father, who is a wealthy man, owns a thirty thousand dollar farm in Kansas, and he has just sent me a letter, begging me to come home and lead an honest life, and telling me to draw on him for \$2000 to pay my bills. I am his only son, and I have almost broken his heart; but this life is coming to an end; I shall settle down on my father's farm and be an honest man, and he showed the letter, a pathetic production from an afflicted parent. 'I shall need \$1000 of the money to pay some little bills,' continued the forger, 'and here is a draft I have made on my father for the \$2000. If you can give me a check for \$1000, I will give you the draft and send you the other \$2000 as soon as I get home.' The lawyer read the letter carefully, drew a check for \$1000 and handed it to his client, and received the draft for \$2000. About 10 days after the draft was deposited in a bank for collection it came back with the message that the man on whom it was drawn had been dead for eight years, and wasn't worth a cent when he was alive."

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Cheap Elocution.

Recently a Justice of the Peace, while sitting in his office smoking, was accosted by a stranger, who inquired:

"Judge, how much will you charge me to read over about fifteen lines of printed matter from a book I have?"

"Why, can't you read them?" replied his honor.

"I can, but I want to hear how the lines sound when read aloud. I'll give you a quarter to read them to me."

"All right," replied the Justice. "I can't earn two shillings any quicker."

A woman opened the door at that moment, and the stranger put down the book on the desk, clasped her hand and said to the Justice:

"Begin at the pencil mark there, and read slowly."

His Honor's chin dropped exactly eighteen inches as he saw that the reading matter was the usual form of marriage, but he didn't back down from his word. It was the cheapest marriage he ever attended, and he didn't half enjoy the chuckles of the bride and groom as they went out.

A one-eyed man in St. Louis won a glass eye at a church raffle. This is the way he used it. He says: "A man came into my office once to give me a thrashing about a little difference we had in regard to the settlement of a small estate. I listen to him coolly and deliberately. Then when I saw he was about to strike, I pulled out my eye and laid it on the table, as if it were a disposed of motion. That man went down stairs on the outside of the building. Still, he could have got away with me if he had persisted. I was out the other day for a walk, when a couple of ladies approached me, asking for alms. As if to cogitate upon the settlement of a small estate, I took out my knife and unconsciously picked on the glass eye this way, (illustrating). They left their baskets on the ground, and though I offered to put up for their cause, nothing could head them off. But it is in the street car that I have the most fun. Taking my 6 o'clock car, I have the starting point, of course I secure a seat. Very soon the seats are crowded with men, and ladies come in. I shut my good eye, so (illustrating) and level the dead eye on the man I want to have raised to make room for the lady. In time it will bring a man to his feet. There's something in the stare of a dead eye that will make a man's blood like it was put on the ice. I have cleaned a whole car out in this way, and had the thanks of the ladies voted. I never put up a cent in church on a collection. I set the eye on the donation, and the most of them they will not admit full citizenship foreigners, even of their own race. But we have degenerated so in patriotism and public virtue that from mercenary motives and party purposes we are inviting the heathen races from all lands to come and possess our country, and conferring the rights of citizenship on those who cannot even read the English language, and know no more about the Constitution by which our complicated system of State and Federal Government was organized, than educated horses—4m. paper.

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